

So what is happening to it? The Co-op in Earlsdon Street has always been an important shop in Earlsdon, where you could buy a wide variety of goods. It was the only place in Earlsdon Street where you could buy wet fish or a pair of men's socks, for example. But in February most of the premises were shut down and "Closed during Redevelopment" signs put up. There are now various rumours circulating as to when and what sort of redevelopment will take place. A member of the Community Association has been attempting to discover the facts but has met with a nil response and constant referrals up and down the Coventry headquarters hierarchy.

We do know that some seven months ago the Co-op received outline planning permission to redevelop this site.

This means that they have permission in principle but that before anything is actually done detailed plans must be submitted and approved by the City Council. At present there is no sign of any detailed plans and we do not yet know what trades will be provided in the new shop.

The original intention, and what the Council's Planning Committee wanted, was to redevelop the whole of the site from the roundabout up to no. 12 Earlsdon Street. However, this includes Dewhurst the butchers and Moores the bakers, neither of whom were interested in either selling or redeveloping. So the Co-op were forced to go for piecemeal redevelopment and this was accepted, in principle, by the Planning Committee.

So, at present the shop premises are standing empty and the workers have been moved to other branches or

## EARLSDON, CHAPELFIELDS, & HEARSALL OPINION.

**First Edition: FREE**

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retired, but effectively the Co-op are losing money and the attraction of Earlsdon as a shopping centre seems to hang in the balance. A good supermarket would be very popular in the area and would help to draw back to Earlsdon Street some of the trade it has lost over the last few years. On the other hand, we wonder whether the Co-op intend to retain a supermarket in Earlsdon at all.

In order to try and shed some more light on the whole question, the Earlsdon/Chapelfields/Hearsall Community Association have written a letter to Mr Rigby, President of the Co-op Management Board, asking for information, in view of the concern that exists locally and the importance of the Co-op shopping facilities to Earlsdon.





# Community Association News

This will be a regular feature to keep you in touch with the activities of the Earlsdon, Chapelfields and Hearsall Community Association. So far, as you probably know, this still consists of a steering group under the chairmanship of Warren Redman, set up at a public meeting in October. Some time in May, that steering group has to come back and ask you to decide whether to continue the work we have started and form a properly constituted Community Association.

Meanwhile, these are just two of the things that have been going on.

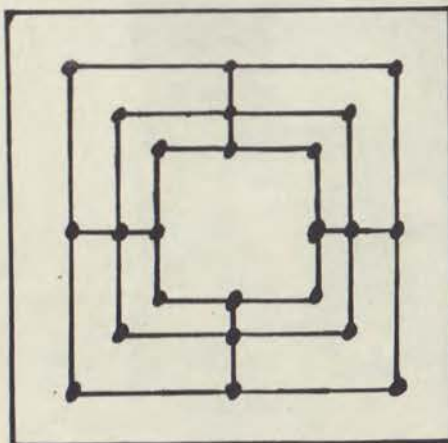
- \* The Community Newspaper, ECHO, is seen as one of the most important ways for people to hear about what's going on locally and, more important, to say what they think. In our next issue, we shall be looking at the provision for youth in the area and seeing the difference the opening of Broadway School as a youth club on Fridays has had. But what about Broadway School for other activities; and what about youth clubs in Hearsall and Earlsdon Schools and elsewhere? What of the plans for this area and how are we all to have a say in what's wanted? These are all issues that will be

raised in ECHO and your views will be sought. Your letters are welcome and should be sent c/o Earlsdon Library.

- \* Another important issue the Community Association is looking into is Neighbourhood Care in the area. We are still very much a close-knit community, as we saw during the Earlsdon Village Festival last year. But people who have been good neighbours for years are getting older and many may be in need of occasional help themselves. Did you know that we have the greatest proportion of elderly people in Coventry? There may be many little things that we can all do to help. Perhaps some shopping, or a little gardening; or maybe mending a fuse or replacing a light bulb.

Most important, do we keep our eyes open and know who needs help and who can offer it? We are starting by looking at two roads in Hearsall - Kensington Road and Westwood Road. If you need any kind of assistance or can offer any help, however little it may seem (most people need some help and can offer it), and you live in either of those two roads, please let us know. Contact John Prior, through Hearsall Primary School.

## Young Ideas



### NINE MENS MORRIS

The game is for 2 players. You need 9 counters each. Toss to see who starts. Put your counters on empty points on the board. The aim is to make a row of 3 along any one line. If you succeed in doing this you can remove one of the other person's counters. When all 1 counters have been placed on the board, move counters a single jump at a time to an empty neighbouring point to make a row of 3. A row of 3 can be broken by moving a counter out and then remade by moving it back next turn. Whether the row is being made for the 1st time or being remade, the player who makes it can claim a counter from his opponent each time. You can win either by capturing most of your enemy's counters or by blocking all his men so they can't move.



# SPOTLIGHT

## MRS CLEVERLEY

Mrs Cleverley is a familiar figure in Earlsdon as a school crossing lady. She has been connected with the area for a long time and has been living in Highland Road for twelve years. Despite having a family of five boys to look after her main hobby is cooking, for which she has several certificates and has won her local allotments association shield twice.

She has been a crossing lady in Earlsdon for seven years. She enjoys her job "very, very much indeed", particularly because of the children, who she says are less shy these days. However, Mrs Cleverley reckons the crossing area is "a very dangerous spot". There have been some minor mishaps but she has not been injured herself - "Not yet!" She thinks that drivers are a bit wary of her size and her lollipop sign, but says that they are usually quite careful.

Mrs Cleverley remembers one driver who

failed to stop and said he didn't see her - she suggested he get his eyes tested in the opticians in Earlsdon Street - "Let's face it, I'm big enough to see". Children are sometimes left with her when parents have forgotten to collect them, so she makes sure they get home safely. Occasionally she has carried old ladies' shopping and many a time she's pushed a car out of the way in snowy weather!

Mrs Cleverley thinks that the area has improved recently, particularly the shopping centre, but believes that we still need our own comprehensive school, better community facilities for teenagers and a big supermarket with lots of discounts.

Sadly, Mrs Cleverley is planning to move to Arley in about three years in order to have a bigger garden, although she would be happy to stay here. She thinks Earlsdon is "the greatest place", mainly because people of all ages are so friendly.



**STOP  
CHILDREN**



Photographs by Barry Smith



# . OPINION. OPIN

## ~ Ation Corner

There may be some debate as to where the centre of Hearsall is, or of Chapelfields. But no-one who knows Earlsdon would hesitate if you asked where its centre was. The heart of Earlsdon is traditionally known as "ATION CORNER". Why "Ation"? - you may ask (if you're a newcomer or haven't been around since the First World War). And a scornful local would stand you on the centre of the roundabout and point to the four corners. "That's Salvation", he'd say pointing to the Methodist Church on one corner, "there's Education", indicating the library, "over there's Co-operation", showing the Co-op (at least what's left of it for the time being), "and there, the City Arms that used to be Ma Cooper's, well that's Damnation of course".

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We sent two young reporters to Ation Corner to find out what people think of the centre of Earlsdon now. And these are their findings.

### TRAFFIC

To a pedestrian, Ation Corner, presents a considerable hazard. Almost everyone seen by our reporters commented on the dangerous position of the zebra crossing opposite the library. So far there have been no serious accidents, but people reported seeing near misses or minor incidents.

Several of our opinion-givers suggested that when the crossing is moved back, railings are placed on the corners to prevent people crossing in the dangerous places.

Another idea voiced by many, was that a crossing from the Co-op to the City Arms across Earlsdon Street should be installed. That's clearly a sound suggestion, as anyone who knows the "corner" would know. The next thing is to persuade the Council!

We hear that plans are being made to move the crossing further from the roundabout, reducing the danger of cars coming on to the crossing unaware. Anyone who crosses there regularly, knows of the danger, none more than our "lollipop lady" who appears in this issue. But, unless the Council acts quickly, not something they are renowned for, someone may be seriously injured or killed. Don't let's wait for that to happen.

### TOILETS

Everyone agreed. A ladies' toilet should be provided. People had mixed views about its location, but the important consideration was that it should be fairly central and that Earlsdon should have one. Planners have been walking around trying to decide where to locate the ladies' loo. Why don't they ask us; and more important, why don't they keep us informed about their own decisions so that we know what's going on? Earlsdon ladies feel quite deprived at being loo-less; the Council had better prepare for a shock if they can't wait any longer.

### SHOPS

The opinion of the people in Earlsdon is that we have plenty of shops, but they aren't the right ones and they don't sell the right things. "Too many specialised shops catering for the home, not enough variety for the people who live in them" was the sort of comment we got. In other words, Earlsdon offers tiles and hardware, paint and carpets, curtains and furniture. But shoppers found Earlsdon lacking in a good super-market, a delicatessen, a bookshop and a men's clothing shop. So, shopkeepers, see what you can do. Earlsdon, especially around Ation Corner can offer you a great opportunity if you want to take it.

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# ION . OPINION .

## Falling Walls.

The tragic death of Lindsey Aiken in Melbourne Road was branded as a 'freak accident' in the national press. A deeper look at the situation casts doubt on this description; many local residents and council building officials are concerned that this type of accident could easily happen again.

People living in the streets around Melbourne Road all agreed that this dreadful accident could be repeated; a local resident commented "these entry walls are all very bad", they could collapse at any time. A quick glance around the neighbourhood is enough to see the truth of that statement; although some people have repointed or replaced front walls, the back walls and entry walls tend to be neglected. Garden Walls are not seen as a priority when it comes to house repairs and renovation; yet many walls in Earlsdon are now urgently in need of maintenance.

Everyone seems agreed that Lindsey Aiken's death was a tragedy which should not be repeated. But who will take the responsibility to ensure it is not? Mrs Heydon of Bristol Rd. felt that residents had to take some responsibility for themselves, particularly for garden walls. "They should look around a bit more and see what needs doing". She did feel, however, that the replacement or maintenance of long entry walls is a job which the Council could help with; she had had to repoint an entry wall on her property five years ago and had received no assistance from the Council.

The cost of repairing or replacing the walls is likely to be between £50 and £500 according to size and condition of the wall. Some discussions on the possibility of Council help are planned but nothing definite has been agreed. One way the area could become eligible for financial help for improving rear entries;

access and general amenities, would be if it was declared a General Improvement Area. Councillor Leonard Hilton is trying to bring forward the declaration of Earlsdon as a General Improvement Area by twelve months and also to extend the G.I.A to cover the west side of Earlsdon. A meeting is being held at Hearsall School to discuss this and it is hoped to have petitions around Earlsdon supporting the scheme.

Another problem of responsibility was highlighted by Mrs Evans of 74 Kensington Road, she rents her house (as do many people in Earlsdon); she usually arranged for running repairs to be done herself; she thought her back wall was probably in need of repair but did not like to "bother the landlord too much". Her front wall which had been repaired "by the Council years ago" was also falling down. "We always tell the grandchildren not to sit on that wall". If the Owner/Tenant needs advice they should consult a builder or if the wall is considered to be in a very dangerous state, the building inspectors at the Building Information Centre of the City Council will come and inspect it. Brian Bliss, the Council's Chief Building Surveyor stresses, however, that his inspectors cannot inspect a wall for safety; the only legal power they have is to declare it dangerous and serve dangerous structure notices forcing the owner to demolish the wall.

Argument will probably continue as to just who should take the final responsibility for the safety of the walls in this area, whether it is owner, landlord, tenant or Council but action is needed now by the people who live in the area to prevent a re-occurrence of the tragedy of Melbourne Road.

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# E.C.H.O. SNIPPETS

## HELP WANTED!!

TO RUN OVER-50s group  
MEETS HEARSALL SCHOOL

WEDNESDAY EVENING

CONTACT: PAULINE SMITH  
70, Broomfield RD  
TEL: 713258

Lookout for  
"The Garden Game"  
BBC 2

Friday April 6th  
45 members of  
EARLSDON Flower Club  
in Audience.

## TEA at TWO

Help wanted with CRECHE  
2.00 - 3.00 pm

Thursdays

HEARSALL SCHOOL  
BRISTOL RD

CONTACT: SUE GLADSTONE  
713286

## E.C.H.O. WANTS HELP

TREASURER.  
CONTRIBUTORS  
CARTOONISTS  
NEIGHBOURHOOD/  
STREETSELLERS  
TYPISTS - ABLE  
TO USE ELECTRIC  
TYPEWRITER

CONTACT:  
GRAHAM PARTRIDGE  
EARLSDON LIBRARY

Houses Wanted  
in Earlsdon for  
seven students  
Contact: Denise Manson,  
G143, Priory Hall,  
Lancaster Polytechnic.

For your Snippets  
Pop-in  
Echo Box  
EARLSDON LIBRARY

Family home to let  
for holidays near  
Penzance. Sleeps  
eight. Available  
April - June and  
Sept. - Oct. Tel. 73036

Sorry!  
We couldn't  
include all  
items due to  
space problems



## ABOUT ECHO

This is the first-ever edition of ECHO, a monthly community newspaper published by the Earlsdon, Chapelfields and Hearsall Community Association. ECHO is just one of the results of the work of the steering group set up at a public meeting last October

The main aim of ECHO is to do just what its name implies - to echo the opinions of the residents of Earlsdon, Chapelfields and Hearsall. There will be regular features, like those in this edition. But always, we shall try to say what's important to all of us who live here, and make sure your voice is heard. So let us know what you think and, even better, come and join us.

Any news or views should be addressed to the ECHO Editorial Committee, c/o Earlsdon Library.

ECHO will be published each month at 5p. This first, limited edition is issued free. Please pass it around.

Saturday, May 19th

Saint Mary Magdalen Church is holding a Summer Fayre on the Playing Fields of All Souls Junior School, Abercorn Road.

## EARLSDON VILLAGE FESTIVAL 1978

Voluntary Organisations within the boundaries of Earlsdon (see map, Earlsdon Library), are invited to send in written applications for small grants from the residue of monies left from the Earlsdon Village Festival 1978. Applications should include specific proposals for the way that a stated amount of money would be spent.

Closing date: 30th April, 1979

Public meeting: 21st May, 1979 at 7.30p.m.

Earlsdon Methodist Church Hall.

Please write to:-

The Treasurer,  
Earlsdon Village Festival 1978,  
38 Albany Road,  
Earlsdon,  
Coventry.

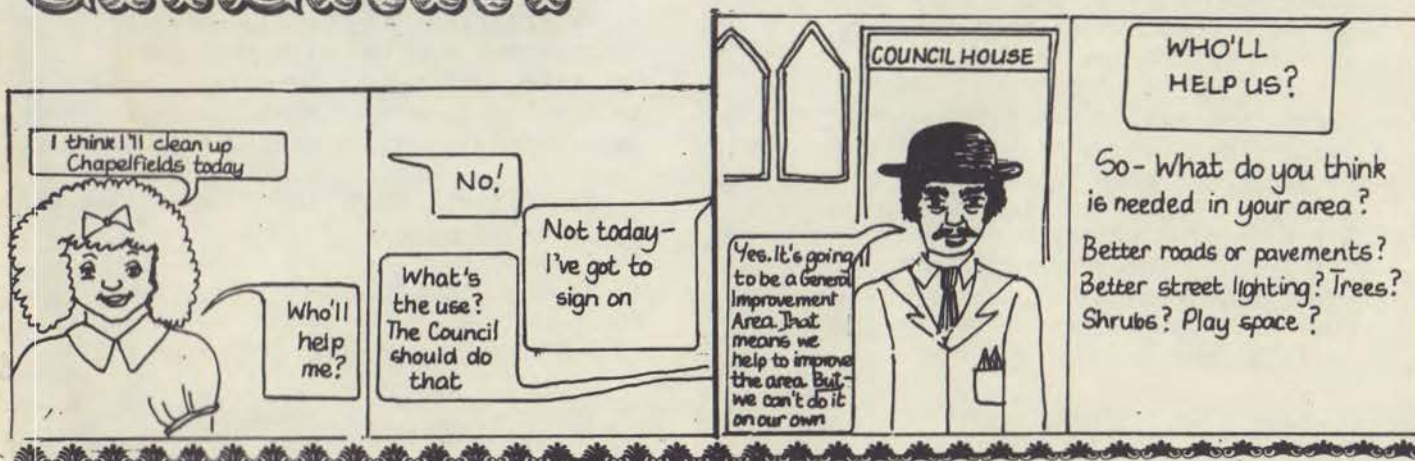
### OUR SPONSORS

We would like to thank the following for their generous support of this first issue of E.C.H.O.

Atkins and Barker  
Grimmett and Timms  
Harry Weston  
Smartsound and Vision  
and an Anonymous Donor

For future issues we invite advertisers to support E.C.H.O. by buying space. Information from Graham Partridge, Earlsdon Library.

**Cheery Chapelfields**  
**CHEERY**





# SHOPPING

## NEW SHOPS IN EARLSDON

### Rolfe's D.I.Y.

We are pleased that Mr Rolfe has been able to re-open his business at 173 Albany Road after the disastrous fire he suffered last Autumn. The fire destroyed the old premises off Moor Street causing £35,000 worth of damage. Luckily all the business records were saved, although singed, along with all the softwood doors in stock. Since the fire only one full-time worker has been laid off and Mr Rolfe is hoping to find larger permanent premises in the centre of Earlsdon. At present he is unable to stock much timber due to lack of space but otherwise has very much his previous range of goods. He is very doubtful about being able to rebuild on the old site, despite a petition with nearly 2,000 signatures submitted to the Council's Planning Committee. In any case, Mr Rolfe thanks all his past customers and looks forward to seeing them again in his new shop.

### Briant Curtaining

Another new shop opened at 147-9 Albany Road on 3rd January - Briant Curtaining. It's only the Coventry firm's second retail shop since they started five years ago but they cover the country doing contract work for schools, hotels, clubs, colleges, offices and of course theatres. The company chose Earlsdon because of its good shopping centre which attracts custom from outside the district, the fact that it is a residential area and that there was no existing supplier. Although they do not usually advertise, preferring to rely on their reputation, they are very pleased with trade so far.

Apart from selling curtains, Briant Curtaining offer a complete fitting service, and even install stage curtain motors. The soft toys on display are made in a workroom at the rear of the shop. The company also supplies venetian, vertical and roller blinds, cushion covers, curtain tracks and curtain fabric.

### The Phantom Supermarket.

Our final 'new' shop in Earlsdon is the 'phantom supermarket' in the purpose-built premises at 52-54 Earlsdon Street, on the old V.G. site. Apparently the owners have found it impossible to let at its present size and are now thinking of splitting it into two shops. It seems that Entwistle Thorpe are interested in no. 52. So many Earlsdon people have commented that one of the things we really need is a supermarket, but we don't seem to be having much luck in that direction; there was also a proposal some years ago for one on the site of Newage Engineering but that fell through.

## AN OPEN LETTER TO THE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE OF COVENTRY CO-OP SOCIETY LTD.

Dear Sir,

We, the residents of Earlsdon are concerned about the future of your shops in Earlsdon Street.

Provisional planning applications were received by the Coventry Planning Department and returned six months ago, asking for more detailed plans. The Planning Department has heard nothing since. Why? Does this mean that the Earlsdon Co-op will be in its present state for at least another year?

Could your reasons for delay be that Earlsdon St. has been included in the General Improvement area and, therefore, could possibly be eligible for grants towards the improvement costs in 1981?

We would like your plans for the shop to be explained as one of our representatives has been unable to discuss the problem with your Public Relations Officer. Several attempts to arrange an appointment have been unsuccessful, and, as many people have shown concern that the premises will be empty for a long time, a swift reply would be appreciated.

Yours faithfully,

The Residents of Earlsdon.



## E.C.H.O. DIARY OF EVENTS

(Please send items for inclusion to Graham Partridge, Earlsdon Library)

April 2nd 8.00 pm Monday Club 'The European Parliament' - Mr. B.A. Binley Open meeting  
for ladies St. Barbara's Church Hall  
3rd Lenten Lunch Earlsdon Methodist Church Hall  
3rd 7.30 pm Joint Ecumenical Study Group St. Barbara's Church Hall  
5th 7.30 pm Coventry Philharmonic Choir - Stainer's 'Crucifixion' Hearsall  
Baptist Church  
5th - 7th 7.45 pm 'A Lady Mislaid' - Magdalen Players St. Mary Magdalen Church  
Hall, Craven St. Tickets obtainable at the door  
10th Lenten Lunch As above  
10th 7.30 pm Joint Ecumenical Study Group As above  
11th 7.30 pm Earlsdon Townswomen's Guild Hair Care - 'Mavis' Earlsdon Jnr. School  
11th 7.30 pm Earlsdon Flower Club 'Fun with Design' - Mrs. Margaret Newman Open  
show at Coventry Technical College  
13th 7.30 pm United Act of Worship Earlsdon Methodist Church  
15th 6.30 pm Hearsall Baptist Church Choir 'Olivet to Calvary' Hearsall Baptist  
Church  
19th 2.30 pm Chapelfields Townswomen's Guild Skin Care and Beauty Demonstration -  
Mrs. A. Wattis Hearsall Baptist Church Hall  
23rd 8.00 pm Monday Club 'Safe Uses of Gas' - J.A. King National Gas Board As above  
23rd - 28th Coventry Methodist Eisteddfodd, ending on 28th April with an evening  
'Winter's Festival' Earlsdon Methodist Church  
26th 7.30 pm Earlsdon Flower Club 'Nature's Jewels' - Mrs. Braddock of Codsall  
St. Barbara's Church Hall  
28th 8.00 pm Barn Dance 42nd Scouts St. Barbara's Church Hall  
  
May 5th 10.30 am - 12.00 noon Nearly New Sale Kenderdine Nursery School, 68 Earlsdon  
Avenue South  
5th - 12th 'Equus' by Peter Schaffer Criterion Theatre Phone bookings during day  
(75013) or evening (75175) during previous week or any Wednesday  
7th 8.00 pm Monday Club 'Domiciliary Nursing Service' - Mrs. V. Richardson,  
Community Health Service As above

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## FALLING WALLS - LATEST NEWS

As you may have read in the 'Telegraph', an action group of Earlsdon residents has been formed to help and advise people with unsafe jetty walls. The group wants to stop old folk in particular from worrying unduly and to protect them from 'cowboy' builders.

It seems that the attitude of some Council officials inspecting the walls has not been very sympathetic to the worries and difficulties caused to elderly people. The action group offer to take down condemned walls for people unable to do it themselves and would prepare the ground for rebuilding - which may save residents up to one third of the cost. If a builder has given you an estimate which seems rather high, the action group will give a second opinion, based on their connections with reputable builders.

The action group have two further pieces of advice:

- (1) Read the notice from the Council very carefully to check whether you have actually to pull down or just repair your wall;
- (2) Retain any bills for work done - there may be Council grants payable for the repairs, especially if you have a Council mortgage.

Contact the group through: Jim King, 65 Broomfield Road. Telephone: 70842